

NewsLetter

Week of Jan. 6, 2003

Vol. 4, No. 1

A look back ...

The year 2002 can best be described as a challenging one for the Laboratory. We reveled in some outstanding technical achievements and scientific breakthroughs, took pride in honors bestowed on co-workers and colleagues, welcomed distinguished visitors, dedicated facilities, endured condemnation of the whole for the purported actions of a few and sought resolution of issues that question our institutional trustworthiness.

The vast majority of employees ended the year much as they began it, dedicated to doing the best job possible on behalf of our nation. With a new year before us that no doubt will be filled with its share of challenges and accomplishments, it is important to recall high points of the year that was. Below is a summary of some of the Lab's technical and scientific accomplishments, awards, visitors and events during 2002.

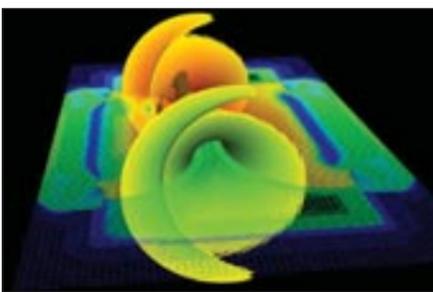
Technical/Programmatic Accomplishments



Watching as current increases to the electron beam at the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test facility are members of the team that met a major performance milestone at the facility.

Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrotest (DARHT) — The Laboratory's premier flash X-ray facility passed the major technical hurdles needed to complete the second axis of the project. About 20 more months of commissioning will be required to achieve full X-ray hydrotest capability. The DARHT team first ran an electron beam through the injector at high current in July, meeting the initial technical milestone. Late December's run was required to meet Critical Decision 4d, the fourth and final set of technical milestones. When fully operational in mid-2004, DARHT will provide time-resolved, three-dimensional radiographs of non-nuclear mock-ups of nuclear weapon primaries at the moment of implosion.

Spiked plutonium experiment — This year, Lab researchers took a significant step toward better understanding the plutonium aging process and how that might affect the nuclear stockpile. They conducted a crucial experiment that involved "spiking" samples of nuclear weapons plutonium (Pu-239) with 7.5 percent of the plutonium-238 isotope, which decays about 300 times faster than Pu-239.

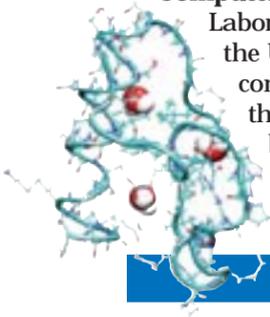


The Crestone Project team produced this visualization from a simulation in support of hydrodynamic validation experiments performed at the Shiva Star facility at Kirtland Air Force Base. The image shows an adaptive mesh (lower center region) in a single plane, and pressure variations in the imploding shock wave.

Three-dimensional simulations of a nuclear weapon — Laboratory researchers completed two of the largest computer simulations ever attempted, the first full-system three-dimensional simulations of a nuclear weapon explosion. These simulations signified completion of an important milestone in the maturing of National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program. Both calculations ran on the ASCI White machine at Livermore.

Laboratory and flown aboard NASA's Mars Odyssey detailed the location of hydrogen that may indicate water-ice just below Mars' surface. Locating water on Mars would support theories that the environment once supported life, and possibly still does.

Computer simulation of full-system protein folding — Laboratory researchers in collaboration with colleagues at the University of California, San Diego, created the first computer simulation of full-system protein-folding thermodynamics at the atomic-level. Understanding the basic physics of protein folding could solve one of the grand mysteries of computational biology.



continued on Page 3



A wall in the Nicholas C. Metropolis Center for Modeling and Simulation depicts some of the many contributions made by Metropolis during his long and brilliant career at the Lab.

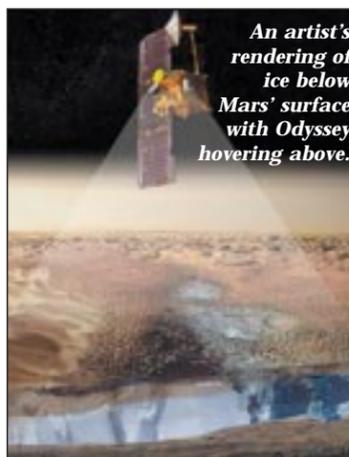
Strategic Computing Complex — The 300,000-square-foot Strategic Computing Complex was formally dedicated in May as the Nicholas C. Metropolis Center for Modeling and Simulation. In the absence of nuclear testing, large-scale computations validated with precision experiments and past Nevada Test Site test data, will provide the Lab with tools to certify the safety and reliability of the nation's nuclear stockpile.

Biological Aerosol Sentry and Information System, or BASIS — Laboratory technology developed to monitor air quality and to collect and check aerosols was used in collaboration with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory at the 2002 Winter Olympics to rapidly detect criminal use of biological agents.

New technology for separation and capture of carbon dioxide from industrial processes — Lab researchers continue working on a new high-temperature polymer membrane to separate and capture carbon dioxide, preventing its escape into the atmosphere. This new technology for the separation and capture of carbon dioxide from industrial processes could lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions to the atmosphere.



An employee in Nuclear Materials Science (NMT-16) assists with rolling the spiked plutonium on a laboratory-scale rolling mill (foreground).



An artist's rendering of ice below Mars' surface with Odyssey hovering above.

Laboratory director resigns

Editor's note: Following are messages to all employees sent by Laboratory Director John Browne and University of California President Richard C. Atkinson on Jan. 2. To view a letter from Acting Laboratory Director Pete Nanos and a UC news release, go to the Jan. 2 Daily Newsbulletin at www.lanl.gov/newsbulletin.

Laboratory Director John Browne

I have informed University of California President Richard C. Atkinson that I am resigning my position as director of Los Alamos National Laboratory effective Monday, Jan. 6, 2003.

Pete Nanos, presently principal deputy associate director for threat reduction, will take over as the interim Laboratory director while a nationwide search is conducted for my successor. I will give Pete my total support as he undertakes this difficult transition in leadership. I expect all employees to do likewise.

It has been a great honor to be your director for the last five years. While there were many challenges to overcome during my tenure, my fondest memory will be of the great people that I came to know both in the Laboratory and in the local communities. I am very proud of the scientific and programmatic accomplishments that we made during this period.

The current controversy over our financial and business controls, which arose initially from the misuse of government procurements by a few employees, has brought serious criticism of management at our Laboratory. As Laboratory director, I accept my personal accountability for everything that happens here, both good and bad. Therefore, I believe that only a change in leadership will restore the confidence that is needed for this Laboratory to carry out its difficult and important mission.

I would like to thank all of you for the tremendous support that you gave me during my tenure — through our scientific and programmatic successes, through the security crises, through the Cerro Grande Fire and through the most recent controversy. It is important for all of us to hold our heads high and to fix whatever problems need fixing — now and in the future. Los Alamos is a great Laboratory whose national security mission has never been more important to our great nation.



John Browne

UC President Richard C. Atkinson

I wish to inform you of some major management changes that will be occurring at Los Alamos National Laboratory, including the resignations of Director John C. Browne and Principal Deputy Director Joe Salgado, effective Jan. 6.

I have appointed as interim director retired Vice Admiral Pete Nanos, currently principal deputy associate director for the Lab's Threat Reduction Directorate. He will serve as interim director for a period of several months while the university conducts a nationwide search for a new permanent director. Please provide him your strongest possible support as you continue the vital work of the Laboratory while we proceed through this important transition.

During his career at Los Alamos, Director Browne has made many contributions to our nation's security. In his five years as director, he has led the Laboratory through times of significant achievement, as well as times of difficulty. He has achieved a long and distinguished career of service to our nation as both a scientist and senior administrator. It is to our nation's considerable benefit that he has agreed to stay on in a senior research capacity.

While his resignation is a mutual decision, Director Browne deserves full credit for recognizing that recent allegations regarding Laboratory business practices were distracting from these accomplishments and the work of the Laboratory's extraordinary scientific community. Befitting his integrity and his depth of feeling for Los Alamos and its unique to the nation, he has chosen to step down in order to make way for new leadership as a major step toward restoring confidence in the Laboratory's business practices.

Let me stress that the University of California continues to have confidence in the high quality of the national security program and the scientific and technical work of Los Alamos. At the same time, we recognize that the business and administrative practices of the Laboratory need to be addressed so that they will rise to a similar level of quality.

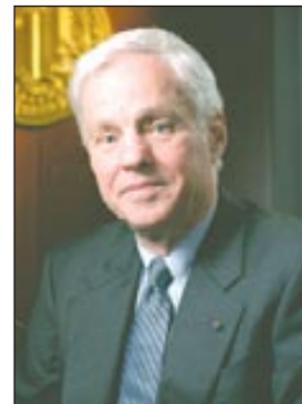
For that reason, we are also implementing a number of other interim oversight changes involving administrative and business operations at the Laboratory. They include

- for the purpose of ensuring that recommended changes to Laboratory business practices are implemented in a timely and effective manner, all administrative and business operations will report to Anne Broome, vice president of financial management at the UC Office of the President;
- for the purpose of ensuring timely and effective implementation of recommended changes in audit practices, the Laboratory auditor will report to Patrick Reed, UC auditor;
- to guide the Interim Director Nanos on general Laboratory management issues, I will be appointing an oversight board.

These changes reflect our deep concern about the allegations that have been made about Los Alamos business practices and our absolute and steadfast commitment to addressing them in a timely manner. We will continue our review of the issues raised in these allegations while cooperating fully with the legislative bodies and agencies investigating these matters. Throughout this difficult time, we will also continue to provide unwavering support to the thousands of dedicated employees at Los Alamos who are focused on their valuable work on behalf of the American people.

In Pete Nanos, Los Alamos will have as its interim leader a talented and experienced professional dedicated to carrying on the tradition of outstanding science and technology in service to our nation's security that has been the hallmark of the Laboratory since the Manhattan Project. Immediately before joining the Lab, Nanos commanded the Naval Sea Systems Command, the Navy's largest major acquisition organization responsible for design, development, repair and support of all Navy ships and shipboard weapons systems. This included oversight of the Navy's four public nuclear repair shipyards with 22,000 employees and seven Navy laboratory divisions with approximately 20,000 employees. Nanos' experience and background will be valuable resources in helping to implement the changes needed in the Laboratory's business practices, while providing leadership to its ongoing scientific contributions to our national security.

Please join me in wishing Director Browne and Principal Deputy Director Salgado well in their future endeavors and in welcoming Interim Director Nanos to his new position.



Richard C. Atkinson

Inside this issue ...

2002: A look back

A summary of some of the Laboratory's technical and scientific accomplishments, awards, visitors and events during 2002. Pages 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6

'Employee Resource' information slated for distribution
 The Ombuds Program Office has created a useful publication to help members of the work force find the right services for concerns they may have. Page 7



'Ask Mayo Clinic' nurse line terminated
 Effective Jan. 1, University of California Laboratory employees no longer are eligible to call the 24-hour "Ask Mayo Clinic" nurse line. Low utilization, high costs and duplication of community efforts were the main drivers in the decision to discontinue this nurse line. Page 7

Lab concludes successful Holiday Drive
 Because of the generosity of Lab workers, many families throughout Northern New Mexico had a brighter holiday season. Page 8



Los Alamos NewsLetter

The Los Alamos NewsLetter, the Laboratory bi-weekly publication for employees and retirees, is published by the Public Affairs Office in the Communications and External Relations (CER) Division. The staff is located in the IT Corp. Building at 135 B Central Park Square and can be reached by e-mail at newsbulletin@lanl.gov, by fax at 5-5552, by regular Lab mail at Mail Stop C177 or by calling the individual telephone numbers listed below.

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Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the U.S. Department of Energy and works in partnership with NNSA's Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to support NNSA in its mission.

Los Alamos enhances global security by ensuring safety and confidence in the U.S. nuclear stockpile, developing technologies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction and improving the environmental and nuclear materials legacy of the Cold War. Los Alamos' capabilities assist the nation in addressing energy, environment, infrastructure and biological security problems.



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2002

A look back...

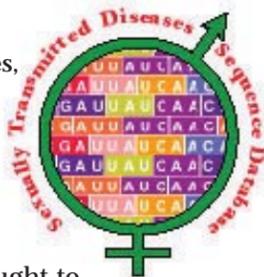
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GENIE (GENetic Imagery Exploitation) — Laboratory researchers created a remarkable tool that rapidly and intuitively develops algorithms for identifying features of interest in many types of imagery. Their tool has been applied to many important problems including the analysis of the World Trade Center site multi-spectral infrared images to determine ash debris and smoke plumes for use in emergency response. This team won both a large team Distinguished Performance Award and an R&D100 Award.

Aquifer model — Laboratory hydrologists developed a computer model that illustrates how groundwater below the Lab can move over time and may interact with other nearby groundwater bodies. The aquifer-modeling project is part of the Lab's ongoing environmental monitoring and surveillance activities.

Herpes database — In an ongoing effort to aid in the search for cures and vaccines for sexually transmitted diseases, the Laboratory created a publicly available Web database containing the Human herpes-virus 2 genomic sequence. In November, the database team added the sequence of the Human herpes-virus 2, or HSV-2, the cause of most genital herpes cases, to the database.



Watusi experiment — Lab researchers took part in a high-explosives experiment, labeled "Watusi," at the Nevada Test Site. The experiment sought to



The "Watusi" high-explosives experiment erupts from the desert floor at the Nevada Test Site. The experiment yielded a blast equivalent to 37,000 pounds of TNT.

show that existing seismic and infrasound sensors at the test site and across the West that were used during underground nuclear testing still can detect and characterize explosions accurately. Several new, promising diagnostic instruments that may provide more reliable or more sensitive capabilities also were tested during this experiment.

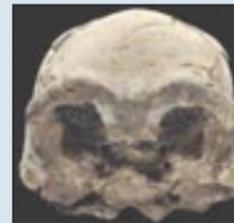
Monitoring giant meteors — A system operated by the Laboratory and used to "listen" for clandestine nuclear tests played a key role in helping scientists more accurately determine how often Earth is hammered by giant meteors like the one that flattened 1,200 square miles of forest in Russia in 1908. Previously, scientists believed meteors like the one that ravaged the Tunguska, Siberia, forest almost a century ago entered Earth's atmosphere every 200 to 300 years. Now, Lab researchers have collected evidence indicating that such catastrophic meteor strikes occur less frequently — about every thousand years.

Cosmic gamma-ray bursts — Laboratory astronomers announced the discovery of what may be the lower-energy "poor relations" of cosmic gamma-ray bursts, the fantastically powerful explosions occurring daily in distant galaxies throughout the universe. If the relationship is confirmed by future observations, this potentially new breed of burst, called an X-ray flash, will provide key information to solve the decades-old puzzle of how these most powerful explosions in the universe are produced.



Detectors such as this infrasound array operated by the Laboratory have helped detect meteors and missiles and have played a key role in helping scientists determine the frequency by which giant meteors enter Earth's atmosphere.

Homo erectus skull discovery — The Laboratory was a key player in a major anthropological discovery involving Homo erectus, a precursor of modern man believed to have roamed Earth between one and two million years ago. An international team that included researchers from the Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, unearthed fragments of a skull

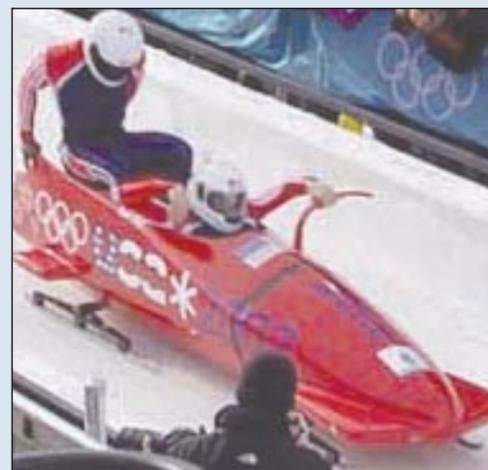


The skull fragment shows massive brow ridges and the long, low vault characteristic of Homo erectus. The specimen reveals a great deal of anatomical detail, which allowed the investigators to infer its close evolutionary relationships to similar fossils in Java, China, Georgia and Italy. Photo copyright by David L. Brill\Brill Atlanta

belonging to a member of the Homo erectus species from ancient sediment layers in Ethiopia. The skull indicates that Homo erectus populated Europe, Asia and Africa and that the species counterparts on each of those continents were the same.

Nitric acid recovery system — A Los Alamos team devised a unique way to eliminate acid waste at the Lab's plutonium facility. The team was recognized for its Nitric Acid Recovery System with a White House Closing the Circle Award. The Nitric Acid Recovery System also won a Department of Energy Pollution Prevention Award.

Laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy technology — Lab-developed technology was used at the 2002 Winter Olympics to help ensure that runners on bobsleighs met specifications mandated by Olympic competition. The Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy technology is a technique that uses a laser-generated plasma to analyze metal to determine composition.



Above is one of the teams competing in the bobsleigh race at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Park City, Utah. The black "legs" underneath the red sled are the runners being analyzed by Lab scientists.

Black holes — Laboratory researchers and colleagues from the University of South Carolina presented a hypothesis that "black holes" in space are not holes at all but are more akin to bubbles. This new explanation for black holes was presented at the American Physical Society annual meeting in Albuquerque. The researchers redefined black holes as spherical voids surrounded by an extremely durable form of matter never before experienced on Earth, rather than "holes" in space where matter and light inexplicably disappear into another dimension.

Operations

Emergency Operations Center — Construction began on a new Emergency Operations Center at Technical Area 69. The new facility will house the Laboratory's Emergency Management operations as well as those of Los Alamos County, the neighboring pueblos, the National Guard, the State Police, the Red Cross, the Department of Energy and New Mexico state Emergency Management. The Lab's new EOC will be the first joint-use facility of its kind between a Laboratory and local government. Construction of the two-story, 38,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2003.



Shown is an architect's rendering of the planned new Emergency Operations Center at Technical Area 69.

continued on Page 4

2002

A look back...

continued from Page 3

Security Systems Support Facility — Construction began on a new facility to house Security Systems Support (S-3). The construction project will provide new office and light-laboratory space for the group, enabling consolidation of Laboratory security systems operations in the new structure from the warehouse (SM-30) and freeing up space in SM-142. The completed facility will be 20,400 square feet, accommodating 55 employees and light-electrical laboratory and machine-shop operations. Construction is scheduled to be complete in May 2003. A Web site has been created for this project and can be found at <http://pmweb.lanl.gov/pqm/projects/s-3facility/> online.



Above is an architect's rendering of the new Security Systems Support (S-3) building.

New divisions — Realignment of the Laboratory's environmental compliance and related operations divisions eliminated the Environment (E) Division and restructured the Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) Division. A new organization called Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship (RRES) was created and has absorbed the bulk of groups from these two divisions. The driving force behind this reorganization was to provide a single point-of-contact for environmental compliance and environmental stewardship operations at the Laboratory

IBM and business-improvement initiative — The Laboratory selected IBM as business systems consultants in the implementation of a Laboratorywide business improvement initiative known as Enterprise Project. EP is a computer-based system that will improve the way the Laboratory handles administrative functions, including finance, human resources, project management and facility management. The four-year contract with IBM is worth up to \$22 million and includes provisions for regional economic-development activities.



Diversity/Affirmative Action Board — A new Diversity/Affirmative Action Board was created to replace the former Diversity Council. The new board, a joint venture of the Diversity Office (DVO) and the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), will help the Laboratory more effectively address multicultural institutional decisions, reduce or eliminate duplication of effort and help the Laboratory "walk the talk" when it comes to diversity.



Above is an artist's conception of a possible CMR replacement building.

CMR replacement facility — The first stages of planning for replacement of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building were authorized by the Department of Energy. The Laboratory was given the go ahead to hire an architecture/engineering firm for preliminary design of the new building and to begin preparing a detailed hazards analysis. A new building would replace the 50-year-old analytical chemistry facility at Technical Area 3.

New site support and facilities operations contract — The Laboratory selected a team led by Kellogg Brown and Root Inc. as its new site support-services contractor. The newly formed joint venture includes partners Shaw Infrastructure Inc. and Los Alamos Technical Associates Inc. in addition to KBR. The KBR-led team will bring in its own senior managers but will retain the other employees of the current support-services company, Johnson Controls Northern New Mexico.

10 teraflops Linux supercomputing — The Laboratory selected Linux NetworX of Salt Lake City, Utah, to build, integrate and deliver a 1,024-processor Linux cluster computer. Dubbed "The Science Appliance" by the Laboratory's researchers, the cluster is a model for future supercomputing systems that will support the Laboratory's mission of stewardship of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. The cluster is expected to be one of the five fastest supercomputers in the world at 10 trillion operations per second, or teraFLOPS.



Omega West — The Laboratory decommissioned and demolished the Omega West Reactor located at Technical Area 2 in Los Alamos Canyon and TA-61 on the south mesa of the canyon. The Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project Office (FWO-CGRP) led this project, having developed the contract that incorporated requirements and high incentives for waste minimization in recovery of the Cerro Grande Fire. The reactor's original purpose in 1956 was for conducting nuclear research by collecting nuclear data of isotopic species in support of the weapons program.



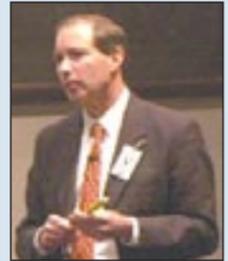
Shown is a 1991 aerial photograph of the Omega West facility.

continued on Page 5

Many stopped by ...



Gen. John Gordon, right, former National Nuclear Security Administration director, and Tom Ridge, director of the Office of Homeland Security



Congressman Tom Udall, D-N.M.



Michael Owen, left, director of the Department of Energy's Office of Worker and Community Transition



Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M.



Leonid Bolshov, left, director of the Nuclear Safety Institute in Russia



Steve Younger, director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and former nuclear weapons programs director at Los Alamos

Harold Agnew, right, the Laboratory's third director



Endeavor mission in which Phillips served as flight engineer.

From Los Alamos to the Space Station

Former Lab technical staff member turned astronaut John L. Phillips discusses his Space Shuttle experiences at a talk at the Lab. Behind Phillips is a NASA photo of the

... and visited



Sacagawea coin model

Randy 'L He-dow Teton stands in front of an image of the Sacagawea gold coin that she modeled for in 1998.

Retiree shares experiences

Tony Biebel, World War II and Korean War veteran, shares some of his wartime experiences at the Laboratory's annual Memorial Day breakfast. Biebel, a Lab retiree, was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 11th Airborne Division and fought in the Pacific during World War II. He also was part of the 32nd infantry regiment, which battled the Chinese near the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean Conflict.



Directors meet at Lab

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Director Mike Anastasio, second from right, talks with Laboratory Director John Browne, second from left; Glenn Mara, left, Livermore's deputy director for operations; and John Immele, the Lab's deputy director for national security, far right.



CUCSA holds first-ever meeting at Los Alamos

Fernando Quintana, right, of Facilities and Waste Operations (FWO), talks about one of the displays in the Bradbury Science Museum Thursday with members of the Council of University of California Staff Assemblies, which held its first-ever meeting in New Mexico. Quintana is chairman of the Laboratory's Employee Advisory Council and the senior delegate to CUCSA. The two-day meeting began with a tour of the museum and presentation by BSM Director John Rhoades. Also shown from left to right are Edward Abeyta, UC, San Diego's senior delegate to CUCSA; Karleen Meaker, UC, Santa Cruz's senior delegate; Diana Attia of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; and Eric Zimmerman of UC, Santa Barbara, partially obscured.

2002 A look back ...

continued from Page 4

RFP for child-care center for Lab, DOE workers — The Laboratory issued a request for proposal for a child-care center for its work force to be operated by an independent vendor. The center will augment existing child-care services now available in Los Alamos and the region. The new child-care facility would open in August 2003, depending on response to the request for proposal and other factors.

New buildings for C and ESA divisions — The Laboratory dedicated two new buildings to replace office space lost in the Cerro Grande Fire. The two office buildings, each roughly 22,000 square feet, house about 100 staff each from the Chemistry (C) and the Engineering Sciences and Applications (ESA) divisions. The new structures are the fourth and fifth small office buildings completed for employees previously housed in substandard and portable buildings. Six more of the buildings, which cost less than \$5 million each, are under contract.

Awards and Honors

ESA Division, PTLA receive Quality New Mexico Awards — Engineering Sciences and Applications Design Engineering (ESA-DE) and Protection Technology Los Alamos (PTLA), which provides protective-force services for the Laboratory, were among 26 organizations statewide that won awards as part of the ninth annual Quality New Mexico Awards program. The program recognizes organizations that excel in using quality concepts and principles. Quality New Mexico is a nonprofit organization that engages in activities that seek to educate New Mexicans about quality; encourage and reward quality in business, education, government and health care; and promote an economic climate to foster and enhance the prosperity of the citizens of New Mexico.



Representatives of the Los Alamos winners of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Programs Awards of Excellence for 2000 showed off their hardware after a ceremony honoring their achievements.

Laboratory recognized with Defense Programs Awards of Excellence — More than 500 staff working in the Lab's nuclear weapons program and supporting divisions were honored with the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Programs Awards of Excellence, one of the agency's most prestigious awards.

for the Los Alamos Science issue on the challenges of plutonium science. The same issue also received an Award of Distinguished Technical Communication, as did two other Los Alamos publications. The Award of Distinguished Technical Communication is the highest award the Society for Technical Communications issues.

Lab patent licensing award winners recognized — Some 250 current and former Lab employees were honored at a reception for work resulting in patents, copyrights or license royalties. In fiscal year 2001, 40 United States patents were issued for Laboratory inventions, 20 commercial licenses were approved and \$1.56 million in license income was generated.



CMR Upgrades Project receives award — A Los Alamos team that managed the CMR Upgrades Project for the Laboratory's 50-year-old Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building was recognized with the Department of Energy's Excellence in Acquisition Award. The award was presented during the Project Management 2001 Workshop in Rosslyn, Va., sponsored by DOE's Office of Engineering and Construction Management.

The project team improved quality assurance requirements for procuring nuclear-grade materials and equipment and established new criteria for determining the hazards posed by perchlorate salt contamination. Additionally, the project team introduced numerous project-management initiatives that improved project tracking and reporting.



Small Business Office wins Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence — The Laboratory received the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence in small-business operations. The Lab received the award from the federal Small Business Administration in the research and development category, one of four categories the SBA recognizes.

continued on Page 6

2002 A look back...

continued from Page 5



Lunch Buddies Program volunteers recognized — Laboratory workers who have donated their time as volunteers in the Los Alamos and Española Lunch Buddies Program were recognized at a reception. Nearly 190 Lab workers have been Lunch Buddies since the program started at the Laboratory in 1996. Through the Lunch Buddies Program, Lab workers spend a lunch hour a week with children at area elementary schools who have been identified by school counselors and teachers as potentially benefiting from one-on-one time with an adult.



Eddy Timmermans

First Lab distinguished postdoc awards announced — Jackie Kiplinger of Structural Inorganic Chemistry (C-SIC) and Eddy Timmermans of Atomic and Optical Theory (T-4) were the first individual winners of the Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Awards.



Jackie Kiplinger

Jennifer Hollingsworth and Alexandre Mikhailovski both of Physical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (C-PCS) captured the small-team award. The Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Award recognizes outstanding



Jennifer Hollingsworth, left, and Alexandre Mikhailovski

and unique contributions by Laboratory postdocs that result in a positive and significant impact on the Laboratory's programmatic or organizational efforts or status in the scientific community.

Nine receive 2002 Women's Career Development Mentoring Awards — Seven Laboratory staff members and two retirees received 2002 Women's Career Development Mentoring Awards for mentoring women at the Laboratory. The 2002 mentoring award recipients were Robert Kraus of Biophysics (P-21), Hans Ruppel of the Computing Communications and Networking (CCN) Division, Johndale Solem of the Theoretical (T) Division, Chester Painter and Dana Berkeland of Neutron Science and Technology (P-23), Jim Kleinstaub of the Nuclear Materials Technology (NMT) Division, Bruce Erdal of Science Applications (RRES-SA), Carol Burns of the Chemistry (C) Division and Chuck Farrar of Weapon Response (ESA-WR).



Laboratory team recognized at White House — A Laboratory team that devised a unique way to eliminate acid waste at Los Alamos' plutonium facility was recognized at a presentation at the White House. Team members Aquilino Valdez, Ronald Chavez, Benjie T.

Martinez and Don Mullins, all of Actinide Process Chemistry (NMT-2), traveled to Washington, D.C., to pick up a 2002 White House Closing the Circle Award in the Recycling category for their work.

Semiconductor technology scores presidential award for Los Alamos team — A Laboratory research team was the co-recipient of the top small-business category award in the 2002 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. The award recognized the development of a new and cost-effective, environmentally friendly technology that could enable the global integrated-circuit industry to achieve its goal of producing increasingly higher-density microchips.



GENIE wins R&D 100 Award — GENetic Imagery Exploitation, or GENIE, that mimics evolution to create more effective algorithms for detecting features in digital images produced by a variety of remote-sensing techniques won a 2002 R&D 100 Award. R&D 100 Magazine annually recognizes the world's top 100 scientific research and technological advances with awards for innovations showing the most significant commercial potential.

Lab receives grant fund awards for environmental projects — The Department of Energy awarded \$33 million in grant awards for 38 research projects addressing national environmental cleanup issues. Funding for the projects come from DOE's 2002 fiscal year environmental-management budget. The Laboratory received five of the 38 awards, which focus on location and characterization of subsurface contaminants and characterization of the subsurface; conceptual modeling; containment and stabilization; and monitoring and validation.



NNSA service coin presented to Lab staff — Twenty-nine Laboratory employees received a National Nuclear Security Administration coin in appreciation for their exceptional service in helping NNSA during its establishment. The two-sided coin has NNSA and its logo inscribed on one side and the name of former NNSA Administrator John Gordon on the other side.

More Highlights

Laboratory director, House subcommittee and stockpile stewardship — Laboratory Director John Browne spoke to the Military Procurement Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee about Los Alamos' stockpile stewardship program. Browne used several examples to highlight technical accomplishments in the program. "I am more encouraged today by our ability to address and resolve stockpile issues than I have been in the past," Browne said. "We have had notable successes in the recent past — in manufacturing pits, in developing the experimental and simulation tools and methodologies that help us better understand weapons performance and in developing a certification methodology. This progress gives me renewed hope in our ability to meet present and future challenges to our stockpile."

Los Alamos and presidential visit to Argonne — Technologies developed at Los Alamos that can be used in the nation's homeland security efforts were among those showcased at Argonne National Laboratory during a visit by President George W. Bush. Bush; Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.; Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham; and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge visited Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago for briefings from Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration laboratory personnel on DOE's homeland-security efforts. Los Alamos provided three of the five demonstrations for the president, including the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC), DNA pathogen-sequencing and analysis technologies and the Biological Aerosol Sentry and Information System (BASIS) that was deployed at the Winter Olympics in Utah.



Jill Trewhella, far right, Bioscience (B) Division leader, briefs President George W. Bush, left, and other officials during a visit to Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. Trewhella talked about DNA pathogen sequencing and analysis technologies, one of several Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration technologies that can be used in the nation's homeland defense efforts. With the president were, from left to right, Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Raymond Orbach, director of DOE's Office of Science.



NNSA implements reorganization

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration moves to a new organizational structure that eliminates a layer of management and sets the agency on a course to achieve a 20 percent reduction in federal personnel by the end of fiscal year 2004.

NNSA Acting Administrator Linton Brooks said that the reorganization follows the principles of the President's Management Agenda, which strives to improve government through performance and results. "In keeping with President Bush's vision, we are streamlining operations and oversight while clarifying roles and responsibilities. The new, more responsive organization will improve federal management of our nuclear weapons complex," he said.

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham applauded the NNSA action, which, he noted, "implements the President's desire to make government more efficient and responsive and to focus on clear lines of accountability." While the entire organizational structure is changing, the NNSA field organization will see the most dramatic change. Currently, the site offices that oversee NNSA's contractor operations report to headquarters through three operations offices in Oakland, Calif.; Las Vegas, Nev.; and Albuquerque, NM. Last December, all site offices began reporting directly to the NNSA administrator through the principal deputy. The operations-office system will be eliminated.

An NNSA Service Center, providing procurement, human resources and other support services to the site offices, will be established using the expertise of the former operations offices. The NNSA Service Center will be located in Albuquerque. Consolidation of personnel will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2004, after which the Oakland office will close and the Nevada office will be reduced in size and concentrate on management of the Nevada Test Site.

Overall, approximately 20 percent will be trimmed from NNSA's federal work force at headquarters and in the field by the end of fiscal year 2004, with headquarters taking a 30 percent cut. The reduction will be accomplished through managed attrition. Security forces and the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program will not be affected by the staff reductions.

"We have worked hard this year to make sure our reorganization is done right. We will manage the reductions in a way that is fair to our outstanding people, while ensuring that the NNSA of the future will have a world-class business environment that eliminates duplication and micromanagement and provides more effective federal oversight," Brooks said.

'Employee Resource' information slated for distribution

Ombuds' second annual, calendar-format brochure

by Judy Goldie

The Ombuds Program Office has created a useful publication to help members of the work force find the right services for concerns they may have.

Called "Employee Resources," "The brochure folds out to a long, narrow strip, handy and space saving, that can be easily pinned to a bulletin board," said Jack Foley of the Ombuds Program Office, who compiled the information in the "brochure." It is designed to be useful and to keep the information easily accessible, Foley added. Worked into the layout is a calendar that notes Lab holidays, 9/80 schedule Fridays and paydays. To distinguish it from last year's edition, the color has changed from green to adobe brown, Foley noted.

The brochure contains contact information about employee services, who may use them and a description of each service. The services covered are those available from the Ombuds Office, the Employee Assistance Program, Complaint Resolution Services, Staff Relations Group, Office of Equal Opportunity, Health Services and the Diversity Office. Also included is contact information for "special

situations" such as the number to call for violence in the workplace, benefits, suspicious packages or bomb threats.

New this year is a listing of services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

"This calendar-like brochure helps to clear up questions about which program is responsible for responding to a particular issue and helps point members of the work force in the right direction," Foley said. The Ombuds Office plans to update the information annually.

All employees should receive a copy of the publication during the holidays. Distribution is scheduled to begin just before the Laboratory's winter closure, though many workers will find it in their mail boxes the first part of January. It also will be available at the various offices noted in the brochure and will be part of new-employee General Employee Training (GET) and the managerial course, "Essentials of Supervision."

Call the Ombuds Program Office at 5-2837 if you have not received a copy by the end of the January, for more information about the brochure, the services described in the brochure or check out the Ombuds Web site at <http://www.lanl.gov/ombuds/> online.



'Ask Mayo Clinic' nurse line terminated

Effective Jan. 1, University of California Laboratory employees no longer were eligible to call the 24-hour "Ask Mayo Clinic" nurse line. Low utilization, high costs and duplication of community efforts were the main drivers in the decision to discontinue this nurse line.

Laboratory workers who experience a medical problem after business hours will continue to have a phone number to call for assistance. Los Alamos Medical Center physicians coordinate a call system for most of the Los Alamos family practitioners, internists and pediatricians. The system consists of two call groups: one for adult medicine, answered by the family practitioners and internists, and the other for pediatrics, answered by the pediatricians. Los Alamos physicians work together to provide this service to the community by taking rotating shifts as the doctor on call.

During office hours, call your doctor's office but after hours access either the adult-medicine or pediatric call group by phoning the main LAMC line, 662-4201. The hospital operator will answer the call. At this time, the caller can request to talk to the doctor on call or, if it is an emergency, the call will be transferred to the nurse in the emergency room for triage. When asking for the doctor on call, the caller will likely be connected with an answering service, which will conduct a brief interview before contacting the physician and linking in the caller.

These call groups are available to all Laboratory workers regardless of home location. Workers do not need to live in Los Alamos or be a patient of a LAMC physician to use this service. If the medical situation is determined to be an emergency, callers will be referred to the closest medical facility. Laboratory workers preferring advice from their personal health-care provider should check to see if they offer a similar service.



During inclement weather,
dial UPDATE at 667-6622
or 1-877-723-4101 (toll free)
to find out about
delays or closures
at the Laboratory.



In the spirit of giving Lab concludes successful Holiday Drive

The annual Holiday Drive sponsored by the Lab and coordinated through the Community Relations Office (CRO) collects new clothes, toys and nonperishable food items for individuals and families in Santa Fe, Española, Los Alamos, Taos, Las Vegas and other Northern New Mexico communities. "The response to this year's Holiday Drive from Laboratory workers was again overwhelming," said Debbi Wersonick of CRO. "Nearly 50 families and 400 children were 'adopted' through the Angel Tag program and several Laboratory organizations conducted special holiday programs for less fortunate individuals and families," said Wersonick. "Because of the generosity of Lab workers, many families throughout Northern New Mexico had a brighter holiday season."



Above: Debbi Wersonick of the Community Relations Office (CRO) stands among hundreds of toys, clothes and other items collected by Laboratory employees through the annual Holiday Drive. The donated items were taken to a location in Santa Fe. The Salvation Army distributed the items to needy individuals and families in Santa Fe, Española, Los Alamos, Taos, Las Vegas and other Northern New Mexico communities. At left: A number of bicycles for boys and girls also are among the items donated as part of the Holiday Drive.

Photos courtesy of CRO

Right: Elva Trujillo, left, and Christina Stadelmaier of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE) Division Office make a final check of packages that will be delivered to 105 children as part of an ongoing holiday tradition at the Neutron Science Center at Technical Area 53. For the past four years, LANSCE has been working with the New Mexico Department of Human Services on the department's 100-plus Special Children program. Through the program, Human Services locates children in need and LANSCE employees help brighten the holidays for each child with a complete outfit, shoes and a toy. Photo by James E. Rickman



Left: A roll-off cart is filled with toys and other items donated by Laboratory workers as part of this year's Holiday Drive. Rapunzel Barbie dolls, Play Stations and game cartridges were among the favorite toys requested by children this year, according to Debbi Wersonick of the Community Relations Office (CRO). Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Los Alamos
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